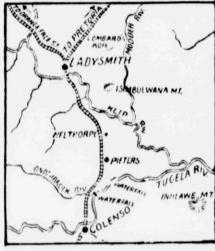
BOER ARMIES IN RETREAT.

JOUBERT NOW FALLS BACK, LETTING BULLER INTO COLENSO.

British Crossing the Tugela There for the Advance Toward Ladysmith-Roberts Continues His March on Bloemfontein -French, Kelly-Kenny, and Kitchener Believed to Have Cronje's Army at Their Mercy-Withdrawal of Free State Troops From the Tugela to Bloemfontein Opened the Way for Buller's Advance-Correspondents Accord High Praise to the Fighting of Cronje's Desperate Rear-Guard.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 21 .- All the news from South Africa tends to indicate a complete reversal of the tide of war. There has been no heavy fighting, but the withdrawal of the Boers before the British advance in both the western and eastern campaigns has been so general and precipitate that it seems to be no longer possible to account for it by the supposition that the movements constitute a new and wellplanned manœuvre. The federal retirement now seems to be a compulsory retreat, which augurs ill for the whole Boer cause.

Gen. Lord Roberts, by rapid marches, has advanced unopposed more than a third of the



LINE OF ADVANCE TO LADYSMITH.

way to Bloemfontein. Gen. Methuen has occupied Kimberley and restored railway communication between that place and Cape Town. Gen. French is still pursuing the enemy to the northeast.

It is persistently reported that Gen. Kitchener has Commandant Cronje's army surrounded and practically at his mercy, but this report is not confirmed. Should this large federal force become prisoners the whole Orange Free State will speedily fall under British control. Large numbers of Free State Boers are hurrying from the vicinity of Ladysmith to the defence of Bloemfontein, but Gen. Roberts's and Gen. Kitchener's movements are so rapid that it is doubtful if they can arrive in time to offer an effectual resistance.

The serious weakening of the Boer forces opposing Gen. Buller has already enabled the latter to take an important advantage, which he is sure to press to the fullest extent. Colenso has been abandoned by the enemy almost without defence and the whole Nata situation may be completely changed within a

The following despatch from Gen. Buller has been received at the War Office:

"BLOU'S FARM, Feb. 20, 4:10 P. M.-The Fusilier Brigade yesterday took Hlangwane Hill, to the right of the enemy's position and commanding Colenso. The rest of the force is advancing toward the Tugela River.

his troops north of the Tugela and practically evacuated Colenso. Gen. Hart to-day occupied Colenso after a very slight resistance by a weak rear guard. We hope to hold the line of the Tugela on the south side from Colenso to

"The enemy seem to be in full retreat They are apparently only holding the position which they occupy across the Colenso-Ladysmith railway, where it is close to the angle of the Tugela, with a weak rear guard.

"Gen. Hart's advanced guard is crossing at

"Our casualties yesterday and to-day. I hope

It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the Boers both east and west have been seized by some sudden demoralization. This may be which has been persistently reported during the past two or three weeks. It must be remembered that there is a distinct difference in this respect between the Transvaal and Free State Boers and that the collapse of the resistance of the Free State does not argue a change of Republic. Nevertheless, no amount of courage or determination among the Trans vaal burghers can prevent the inevitable end of the war once the conflict narrows to within the Transvaal borders. This point, however, has not yet been reached, and it would be

The fate of Bloemfontein depends on the speed of Gen. Roberts's advance. He seems to fully realize this, and the present week will probably settle this feature of the war. The whole crisis, indeed, hangs upon the events of

entirely premature to assume that it is close

Though there is still no news of the final result of the British pursut of Commandant Cronje's army, the correspondents furnish interesting details of the dash of the Boers from Magersfontein and the British attack on the retreating forces. The correspondent of the Standard writes that when Commandant Cronje discovered the full extent of Gen. Roberts's turning movement and realized his own imminent danger of being trapped he evacuated the trenches at Magersfontein on Thursday night at the head of his whole force. He himself, with the transport, trekked along the north bank of the Modder River, but the bulk of his men were ordered to get through the British lines as best they could.

On Friday morning the main body had almos got past the British, but were caught sight of by the scouts. The Thirteenth Brigade at once proceeded to attack the rear guard, but a bedy of Boers numbering about two thousand

Drift, from which they defended the retreat of the main body. The mounted infantry proceeded to storm two of the kopies on the left

while the infantry moved up the north bank of the river. The Boers were driven from two of their positions, but they defended the third kopje with the utmost tenacity, pouring a terrifle rifle fire when any attempt was made to storm the hill. The British behaved splendidly, but the Boers stuck to their posts until dark, and then were only shelled out by the guns of the Eighty-first

In the meantime the main body of the Boers continued to retreat up the river. They succeeded in reaching Klip Kraal Drift, where they crossed to the south. This movement had been foreseen and some mounted infantry and a battery had been withdrawn over Klip Drift and sent by the south bank to block the passage of the enemy. By the time they reached the spot, however, a sufficient number of Boers had got across to defend the position. The British guns continued firing until darkness set in. The enemy must have lost severely. Their dead were all buried by the British.

Up to Saturday 120 wagons had been cap tured and brought in. One convoy was nearly a mile long. The wagons contained bread. flour, clothing and general implements.

Saturday morning the Boers, under Commandant Cronic, were in full retreat south of the Modder River, with Gen. Kitchener and Gen. Kelly-Kenny close at their heels. Saturday night Gen. Macdonald, with the

Highland Brigade, was making a forced march of twenty miles in the hope of reaching Koodoos Rand Drift in time to intercept the enemy.

The cavalry division under Gen. French has pushed eastward to cooperate in harassing the retreat, and, if possible, to cut the road to Bloemfontein. Every credence may therefore be placed on the statements of prisoners that Commandant Conje is disheartened and his men demoralized. Some of them express the opinion that the war will not last much longer. at least so far as the Free State is concerned.

The Chronicle's correspondent, describing the rear guard's defence when they gained the positions in the hills, writes that it was a magnificent spectacle to see the Boer army thus at bay. Their rear guard, 2,000 strong, fought while the main body trekked further east and then brought their guns into action while the rear guard retired. Thus they withdrew, disputing every inch of the way, fighting desperately, and constantly hartheir movements by the attacks of the British mounted infantry on their flank and rear. The correspondent confirms the report of the eagerness of the prisoners for the cessation of the war so that they can return to their farms. They suffered fearful hardship in the trenches. They accuse Commandant Cronje and other leaders of deceiving

them daily by announcing British reverses. The Cape Town correspondent of the Telegraph, in a despatch dated Feb. 19, sends a curious report that the Boers have reoccupied Prieska, which is nearly a hundred miles within the borders of Cape Colony to the westward of the Orange Free State. If the report is accurate, the occupiers of the place may be rebel cold Cronie's retreat.

Among the general expressions of satisfaction over the altered situation that are indulged in by the newspapers there is a certain restraint, which is doubtless owing to past chastenings, but equally to that the Boer withdrawals portend strong opposition to Gen. Roberts, The continued absence of news of the final result of the pursuit of Commandant Cronje's army somewhat overshadows the gratification at the prospect of the relief of Ladysmith, which is again rumored in the newspaper offices this morning as having been achieved.

The military critic of the Morning P. evinces some anxlety that the Boers from Nata! will join Commandant Cronje before the British strike a telling blow. He says there is no doubt that Gen. Buller need only push forward to reach Ladysmith. His cue now is to advance rapidly and as soon as a junction with Gen White is effected to either push on to Laing's Nek or to send back two divisions to reenforce Gen. Roberts, re-

The centre of gravity is now transferred to Gen. Roberts's headquarters and there the British forces should be concentrated. The main Boer army in Natal and the bulk of their forces south of the Orange River are hurrying thither. It is to hoped that Commandant Cronje's resistance will be overcome before the arrival of these new bodies of new Boer troops. If it is not, Gen. Roberts may find himself facing an army equal in numbers to his own. Every nerve ought to be strained to strengthen his hands so as to ensure success.

Other crities warn the public against the assumption that the Boer resistance has collapsed. They declare that the burgher forces yet regard themselves as unbeaten troops falling back after a successful invasion of British territory.

The Queen's remarkable personal appeal to old soldiers, supporting a formal War office invitation issued on the previous day, does not excite more than such comment as is conveyed by one paper in the intentional paradox that "her Majesty is the most loyal of her subjects." It is generally predicted that the appeal will be enthusiastically responded to, though in quarters the conditions Office are criticised adversely. Nowhere in England is the appeal interpreted as having a hidden significance or implying a knowledge of such a dire ace to the Empire as Lord Rosebers lately hinted at. Such an interpretation, however, is being placed upon her Majesty's letter in Berlin and some other Continental capitals.

QUEEN REFERS TO "GOOD NEWS."

Addresses the Lincolnshire Militia Before Leaving Osborne for Windsor.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN LONDON, Feb. 20.-Before leaving Osborne for Windsor this morning the Queen inspected the Royal Lincolnshire militia. Her Majesty congratulated Lord William Cecil, the Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Colonel of the battalion. on the appearance of the men, and added: "Good news has been received this morning

from the seat of war." FRENCH'S LOSS OF OF FICERS.

One Killed and One of the Six Wounder Special Cable Pespatch to THE SUN

LONDON, Feb. 20.-The War Office has issued a Cape Town despatch of yesterday's date giv-ing the casualties among the officers in the fighting near Kimberley on Feb. 14, 15 and 16, One officer was killed and six were wounded. One of the wounded has since died.

FRENCH CAPTURES DRONFIELD.

Takes the Boer Langer North of Kimberley and Seizes Ammunition. Special Cable Pespatch to THE SUN

LONDON, Feb. 20.—Gen. French has captured the Boer laager at Dronfield. The ammunition of the Boer 12-pound gun has been captured.

The First Railway in the World to adopt for all its cars the Pintsch light is the Nev York Central. This line has Pintsch light in it sleeping and parlor cars, its coaches, baggage car and mail cars, contributing in this, as in all othe things, to the comfort and safety of its patrons.— Ado.

gained some kopies to the northeast of Klip HOW KIMBERLEY SUFFERED

WOMEN AND CHILDREN LIVED IN THE MINES TO ESCAPE BOER SHELLS.

Horseflesh the Daily Diet for Two Months -People Danced and Sang With Joy When Gen. French Rode Into the Town -The Relief Had Not Been Expected.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN LONDON, Feb. 20.-A despatch from Modder River says that when Gen. French's force got to within eight miles of Kimberley the garrison there heliographed that the Boers were shelling the town. In reply to this the garrison received a message that French was coming to their relief. The besieged thought that this was a Boer ruse and heliographed the query, "What regiment?" The reply they received removed all suspicion

A despatch from Cape Town says that the country around Kimberley has been entirely cleared of Boers. Ceeil Rhodes is in high spirits.

Accounts of the privations of those who were besieged in Kimberley are coming in. Num-bers of the people are now flocking to the Modder River camp. The women and children are weak from their sufferings during the siege, which according to the Chronicle's correspondent rivalled that of Paris. For sixty days horseflesh was the daily diet of the inhabitants of the town. At meal had been consumed, and the horses were starving. Those which died from starvation were seized and devoured by the Kaffirs.

It was after the Boers brought up their 100pounder that the siege became worst. This gun had a range of eight miles, and it was placed at Kamfersdam, four miles distant. It pounded with segment and shrappel shell daily. Women and children were killed in this ugly bombardment, even those living in excavations in tailing heaps. These burrows afforded security against ordinary artillery, but not against the 100-pounder.

Consequently most of the women and children, by Cecil Rhodes's order, were sent down into the mines and distributed along the various levels. Many saw the sun on Friday for the first time in weeks. They came to the surface pale and weird, looking like inhabitants of another world. Nevertheless, it was this residence in the mine workings that prevented a heavy loss of life.

The De Beers Company did everything in its power for the non-combatants. Mr. Rhodes personally rendered invaluable help. Indeed but for his encouragement and infectious good spirits it is doubtful whether the town would have held out so long.

A truly remarkable achievement was the manufacture of the 28-pounder gun known as "Long Cecil." Its maker was an American named George Labram. He was recently killed by a shell from the Boers' big gun, which burst in his room in the Grand Hotel, "Long Cecil" was rifled, and it fired either shrapnel or common shells. It was simply invaluable in helping to keep the Boers at a distance.

It is easy to realize that the correspondents do not exaggerate when they say that Gen. French's arrival drew forth wild demonstranists, who have not heard of Commandant | tions and rejoicings from the inhabitants, and that they sang and danced in a delirium of joy for half an hour before Gen. French entered the town near the Premier Mine. The relief was not expected, the people not having even heard of the British advance. A signaller saw the column on the move and recognized it as being British. The enemy's forces were melting away, and Gen. French's cavalry were coming up extended along a front of ten miles Mr. Rhodes rode out of the town, but went to the wrong flank, thus missing Gen. French as he entered.

On Friday the British horses were nearly dead from the effects of their terrible march. north in the direction of Dronfield, hoping to capture the big Boer gun that had so harrassed Kimberley, but he did not succeed in getting it. The engineers repaired the railway and the first train from the south entered the town on Monday evening.

VICTORY FOR CHAMBERLAIN. House Rejects a Proposal to Reopen the Jameson Raid Enquiry.

Special Cable Despatch to THE BUN.

London, Feb. 20.-Mr. D A. Thomas, Liberal member for the Welsh district of Merthyr Tydyil, moved in the House of Commons to-day that a full inquiry be made into Dr. Jameson's raid into the Transvaal. Mr. Samuel Thomas Evans, Liberal, seconded the

motion, notice of which had been previously given, and the galleries were filled. There was a more than usually large attendance of mem-

During the debate on the motion, Colonial Secretary Chamberlain maintained that no new fact had arisen that rendered a new inquiry necessary. The documents recently pub-lished by the Independance Belge of Brussels, Mr. Chamberlain declared, had been hawked in every newspaper office in London, but no body would touch them until Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic representative of the Transvaal, paid £100 for them.

Continuing, Mr. Chamberlain said that the proposers of a reinvestigation of the Transvaal raid did not want an inquiry. They wanted the execution of the man who, they considered, caused the war in South Africa in the hope of preventing him from taking part in the final settlement of the dispute.

Sir William Vernon-Harcourt made a long speech, in the course of which he vigorously accused Cecil Rhodes of misleading the British South African Company, and of using the company as a tool in South Africa. Sir William said that the former Parliamentary inquiry into the circumstances of the Jameson raid

Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury and Government leader in the House lefended Mr. Chamberlain. He declared that the political enemies of the Colonial Secretary were taking advantage of the situation to stab him in the back, but nothing would more sesure Mr. Chamberlain's position in the hearts of his friends and supporters than the consciousness that he had been made the victim of such caluminous assaults as the present

Mr. Thomas's motion was rejected by a vote of 286 to 152.

GEN. ROBERTS'S PROCLAMATION.

Believed That It Will Have a Good Effection the People of the Orange Free State. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

CAPE Town, Feb. 19.-The proclamation which Gen. Lord Roberts issued to the people of the Orange Free State after the British oc-cupied Jacobsdal has been very favorably reeived by the Moderates, and it is believed by the English officials that it is likely to have a good fiect. Lord Roberts told the Free Staters that he would do all in his power to terminate the devastation caused by the war, and that he believed the invasion of Cape Colony and Natal by the Boers was not committed with the approval of the people of the Free State, with whom the British had lived in amity for many years He also practically accused President Steyn of nisleading his people.

It is said here that in districts like Faure It is said here that in districts like Faures were described and Phillipolis the Free Staters were described averse to participating in the war. It is stated, moreover, that any appreciable disaffection on the part of the people of the Free Hews 70 years of the people of the Free Hews 70 years of the people of the Free Hews 70 years of the Free Hews 70 y affection on the part of the people of the Free | He was 70 years old.

State will have a decided effect on the rest ess NOT ALLIED WITH ENGLAND Dutch in Cape Colony. This, it is said, is due to the fact that the Colonial Dutch are in much

THE QUEEN'S CALL TO ARMS. Asks the Retired Soldiers to Re-enlist In an Army for Home Detence.

closer sympathy with the Free Staters thap

with their brethren in the Transvaal.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN LONDON, Feb. 20.-The following extraordinary and perhaps unprecedented appeal from the Queen to her subjects has been issued by the War Office:

OSBORNE, Feb. 17. "MY DEAR LORD WOLSELEY: As so large t proportion of the Army is in South Africa the Queen fully realizes that necessary measures must be adopted for home defence. Her Majesty is advised that it would be possible to raise for one year an efficient force of her old soldiers who have already served as officers, non-commissioned officers and privates. Confident in their devotion to their country and in their loyalty to her throne, the Queen appeals to them to serve once more in place of those who, for the time being, are absent from these islands, and who side by side with the people of her colonies are nobly resenting the invasion of her South Afri-

"Her Majesty has signified her pleasure that these battalions shall be designated as the Royal Reserve Battalions of her Army. Signed. A. THUR BIGGE, Private Secretary.'

ROBERTS MARCHING EAST.

Miles East of Jacobsdal. Special Cable Desparch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 20,-The War Office has re-

ceived the following despatch from Field Marshal Lord Roberts "PAARDEBERG, thirty miles east of Jacobsdal,

Report From Paardeberg, Thirty

"The railway to Kimberley will be ready tomorrow

"Methuen proceeds with reenforcements immediately. Supplies will be forwarded by rail. "Dordrecht was occupied by Brabant on Feb.

BOERS REPULSED AT PEN HOEK Attack at Sunrise, but Are Forced Back Toward Jamestown.

Special Cable / espatch to THE BUN. PEN HOEK, Cape Colony, Feb. 19. - Four hundred and fifty Boers with one gun attacked the British at sunrise, but were beaten off at all points. The Boers retired in the direction of Jamestown. Montgomery's scouts and 200 infantrymen

with two guns have started for Looperberg. BOERS LEAV NG ZULULAND.

Report That the Operations There Have Been Abandoned.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN LONDON, Feb. 20.-The Boers who have been operating in Zululand are reported to be leaving that country.

KEARSARGE IN COMMISSION,

Capt. Folger Reads His Orders and Takes Possession of the Battleship.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 20.-Just four rears and forty-eight days after the contract for her construction was signed the battleship Kearsarge was commissioned to-day at the ship yards, and Capt, W. M. Folger, who served during the Spanish War on the cruiser New Orleans, is now her commander. The ceremonies took place this morning and at 11:25 o'clock the American flag was unfurled at the sterapost.

The ceremonies were witnessed by Rear Admiral Barker, commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard, and a number of naval officers. Admiral a number of ladies from the post, was the signal for the preparations and a half hour later, the officers of the Kearsarge were lined up on the upper deck and General Superintendent Post of the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Company formally turned over the battleship to Capt. Folger, who represented the Navy Department in the transfer. Capt. Folger then read his orders from Secretary Long putting him in command of the Kearsarge. When he concluded the flag was raised and the post band from the Navy Yard played "The Star-Spangled Banner" Admiral Barker returned to the Navy Yard shortly after the ceremonies. Preparations had been made to fire a salute in his honor, but at his request it was omitted.

Two hundred and seventy-five seamen from the Vermont, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, mostly men from the Massachusetts, reached the shipyard as the commissioning ceremonies were concluded, and went aboard immediately. A smaller draft from the Franklin at Portsmouth and a detachment of seventy marines preceded them.

THE PHILIPPINES COMMISSION.

All the Members Said to Have Been Chosen -M. M. Estes May Be One of Them.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.-President McKinley has practically determined upon all the members of the new Philippines Commission, and will announce his selections within a few days Judge Taft, President of the commission, had a consultation with the President and Secretary Root to-day. He admitted later that the names of the members had been agreed upon. So far Judge Taft and Prof. Dean C. Worcester are the only members of the commission. Col. Charles Denby was urged by President McKinley to become a member of the new commission, but was compelled to decline because of ill health due to continued service in the East. He was for many years United States Minister to China, and while at the Chinese court was the dean of the iplomatic corps. He later served on the War Investigating Commission and then went to Manila with the Philippines Commission, of which President Schurman was the head. It is said that the President may request Col. Denby to return to China as a member of the Chinese Trade Commission. It is probable that M. M. Estes of Catifornia will be one of the members of the Philippines Commission. He is put forward as the candidate of the Pacific coast, which, it is said, should be represented because of its great interests in the Philippines.

One of the three new men selected by President McKinley is from New England and another is from the South The Southern man is said to be from Tennessee. tary Root to-day. He admitted later that the

RATHBUN HAS LOST 38 POUNDS, He Likes a Water Diet and Appears to Be Healthy.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Feb. 20,-Milton Rathbun, of this city who is fasting forty days in the interest of science and to reduce his weight, which is cumbersome, finished his thirtieth day of abstinence from food this evening and appears as healthy and spry as when he began. Mr. Rathbun has lost thirty-eight pounds of flesh but does not intend to give up until his avoirdupois has been reduced twelve pounds more, which he thinks can be

twelve pounds more, which he thinks can be accomplished in the remaining ten days. Until recently he had been drinking two quarts of spring water a day but now he has cut his supply down to two pints.

"I'leel fine," he said to-day; "I don't want to eat It seems as though I could get along indefinitely without a bit of food. I find that water contains enough of the elements of nourishment to sustain life."

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 20.-The Pacific Coast Steamship Company's stramers are tied up here, being unable to load or unload owing to

the stevedores' strike. Vancouver has the only stevedores union on the coast and the Pacific Coast Steamship Company is trying to Death at Proctor's Pleasure Palace. ployed in repairing and pressing the costumes

SECRETARY HAY TO SEND A DENIAL 10 CONG LESS TC-DAY.

He Will Say in Answer to Ex-Consul Macrum That There Never Has Been a Secret Alliance of the Two Countries -Inquiry Into Charges of Censored Mail.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20,-In a communication which will be forwarded to the House of Representatives to-morrow through President McKinley Secretary Hay will deny the reports and charges that there is a secret alliance between the United States and Great Britain. He will say that there is not now and never has been an alliance between the two countries. This denial will comprise the concluding portion of the Secretary of State's answer to the resolution presented in the House by Representative Wheeler of Kentucky in regard to the case of Charles E. Macrum, formerly United States Consul at Pretoria. In his statement to the press defending his course in leaving Pretoria during the war, Mr. Macrum insinuated that there was such an alliance. The Wheeler resolution referred to this instruction as "a charge" and called on the Secretary of State to say whether it was true. The Secretary of State's answer to that part of the resolution will be brief, but to the point.

The first part of the resolution which asks if Mr. Macrum reported to the Department that his official mail was opened by the British censor at Durban will be answered briefly also. Mr. Hay will say that Mr. Macrum did not report that his mail had been opened by the Durban censor or the British authorities elsewhere. Not including the resolution, the answer will not take more than a sheet of typewritten manuscript.

Every mailed and written despatch sent to the State Department by Mr. Macrum from the time the war began until he left Pretoria has been received by the State Department. There is nothing in the envelopes to indicate that any mailed despatch was delayed in transmission by the British authorities in South Africa. None of the envelopes had been opened. The None of the envelopes had been opened. The State Department considers, in view of this and of the fact that Mr. Macrum has never complained to the Department, officially or privately, that his mail had been tampered with that it would not be warranted in protesting to Great Britain against the alleged actions of the Durban censor or any other British official. This does not mean, however, that the Department has not made or will not make inquiries of the British Government in regard to Mr. Macrum's charges. Officials who were asked to-day whether any effort had been made to ascertain from Great British whether the official mail of the Pretoria Consulate had been opened, declined to say anything about the matter, but it is probable that they have done something of the sort. A. S. Hay, the present American representative at Pretoria, was instructed on Saturday by telegraph to examine the records of the Consulate for evidence that Mr. Macrum's mail had been tampered with. No answer had been received from him up the close of office hours to-day.

Officials of the Government say that if Mr.

Officials of the Government say that if Mr. Macrum's charges are true, the action of the Durban censor was outrageous and should be promptly resented by the United States. This is the view of the State Department and presumably of the President. If Mr. Macrum proves his allegations, the State Department will call on Great Britain for an explanation, and it is predicted that this would be followed by a disavowal by the British Government of the conduct of the censor and a promise that that official would be disciplined and his successor directed not to repeat the offence. Communications between a friendly Government and its officials in a country at war are regarded as inviolate by the belligreents. ficials of the Government say that if Mr.

DEPARTMENT STORES WIN The Missouri Special Tax Law Is Declared

Unconstitutional. JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 20.-The Supreme Court to-day, in an opinion by Judge Robinson, all the judges concurring, declared the Department Store law passed by the last Legislature unconstitutional and void for the reason that it is clearly class legislation and because About South Africa." He used the stereopticon Barker's arrival on a Government tug, accom- the act is incomplete and is not a law and does and when the lights were lowered the four further reason that the act imposes an occupation tax as a license to do business. The law applied to St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph, and the stores in those cities employ-ing a specified number of clerks. This feature is objected to in the opinion as class legisla-tion.

ing a specified number of clerks. This feature is objected to in the opinion as class legislation.

The case decided was that of the State, exel. Wratt against Ashbrook and other officers of the city of St. Joseph, for a writ of mandamus to compel them to issue a licence to conduct a department store in that city without paying the license tax required by law. The court orders the writ awarded. This decision releases John W. Thayer, Precident of the Emery, Bird. Thayer & Co. department store of Kansas City, from paving a fine of \$100 imposed on conviction of violating the law. His case is now before the Supreme Court.

The law went into effect in Sept. 1839. Any merchant in a city of over fifty thousand inhabitants who had over fifteen employees in the retail business was compelled to take out a separate license for each group or class of goods sold—there being fifty classes—and this license was not to be less than \$300 or more than \$500 for each group. It was framed and passed in the interest of small shop-keepers in the large cities. In St. Louis alone a fund of \$10,000 is reported to have been raised among these small dealers for the purpose of enforcing the law and defending its constitutionality. The officer appointed to enforce the law had to look to his fees for his salary. As the law is declared unconstitutional the inspector must whistle for his money.

PANAMA CINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Offer of the French Company to Join Interests With the United States. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.-The President today in response to a request transmitted to the Senate the correspondence with the officials of the Panama Canal Company within the past year. The papers include reports of the engineers as to the work done on the canal and the amount and character of the work necessary to complete it. Included also is a letter from President Hutin of the canal company to President McKinley in which he suggests that in recognition of the sentiment in America in favor of acquiring some interest in an interoceanic canal, the company would offer to become incomparted under the laws of the United States, and would accord the United States such opportunity to acquire an interest in the securities of the canal as might be deemed proper. Under date of Feb. 12 M. Bayard, the representative of the company, informed the President of the change of management of the canal company and confirms the offer made by the former officials.

HELD FOR FRATRICIDE.

One Brother Found Murdered: the Other Hires Counsel and Gives Himself Up. TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Feb. 20. - Newton Knight and Hutchison Knight, bachelor brothers, have lived with their mother in Edgar county, Ill. Last night Hutchison Knight did not return to his home, but his mother not return to his home, but his mother supposed he was stopping with neighbors. This morning his brother Newton came to Paris, employed counsel, gave himself up to the Sheriff and is now looked in the county pail charged with the murter of his brother. He refuses to talk. A neighbor named Coffey on his way to the Knight home this morning discovered the dead body of Hutchison Knight lying near the barn. He had been shot and then chopped with an axe.

A shipment to Costa R ca of 500,000 colons n gold was made yesterday by H. B. Hollins & Co. The pieces were coined at the Philadelphia mint for the Costa Ricin Government and form a part of the new coinage of that country, resulting from its operations toward the establishment of a gold standard. A colon is about 50 cents. The gold paces are 5, 10 and 20 colons.

Writs of Mandamus for Comptroller Fourteen reremptory writs of mandamus have been granted by Sufreme Court Justice Garretson, directing Comptroller Coler to pay over to properly owners in the Fourth ward of Jamida the amounts they paid as a lighting tax in 1807. The taxes were paid under pro-test and the contracts have since been declared illeval by the courts. CLIIMS! CLIIMS! CLAIMS!

\$150,000 on Monday, \$123,000 on Tuesday -Will They Come to Ten Millions?

A great batch of claims against the city under the prevailing-rate-of-wages law was filed with the Comptroller resterday, their aggregate amount being \$122,9.14.50. makes the total of claims filed since Jan. 1, 1899, \$2,719,815,90. Among the claims filed yesterday was one by James Kennedy, a bas-ket maker in the Department of Charities, who wants \$4.420, the difference between \$25 a month and \$3 a day for 2,040 days. "How much do you estimate the total low much do you estimate the total ount of these claims will be?" was asked of

the Comptroller yesterday.
"It is impossible to make an exact estimate," replied, "but if they continue to come in as by have. I think \$10,000,000 is not too high a

they have. I think \$10,000,000 is not too hard figure to place it at."

The Comptroller also received notice from the Corporation Counsel yesterday that in twelve suits for difference in rate judgments had been confessed, the aggregate being

STEAMSHIP SINKS MYSTERIOUSLY. The Tramp Restormel, Grain Laden, Goes

Down in the Delware River. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.-The British tramp steamer Restormel, loaded with grain for Limerick. Ireland, which cleared at this port yesterday, sank late last night in thirty feet of water, opposite this city, on the Jersey side of the Delaware. She was ready to start on her voyage at 9 o'clock last night, but the voyage at 9 o'clock last night, but the captain did not get aboard early enough and so the mate decided to move her from the pier into the river so that she could get away easier in the morning. He had her taken into the middle of the stream and about 10 o'clock started to go to his cabin. When his foot reached the last step on the companionway it plunged into an inch of water and investigation showed that the water was gaining rapidly. Pumps were manned and signals for assistance sent up and a police tug which responded stood near while the men worked the numps, refusing to leave her until her keel settled on the bottom. Her deck was left about four lest above the surface. The crew then left her.

To-day she was pulled into water somewhat shallower and divers went down to ascertain the cause of the leak. It is thought that she can be raised without removing the cargo. The agents of the vessel in this city are Barker & McCastin. She is a British steamer, owned in Cartiff, Wales, and was built in 1882 at New Castin England. She is 281 fact long 34 feet.

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FIRE PANIC IN A SCHOOL.

Four Burt in a Mad Rush of 750 Pupils to

Get Out of the Building. St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 20.-Four children were injured to-day in a panic caused by a cry of fire in the O'Fallon School. They were Myrtle Seketer, right leg broken; James Seketer, ankie broken, jumped from a window; John Oswald, knocked down and trampled upon: Estelle Baker, battered and bruised in the mad rush of the 750 children to get out of the building

Miss Shaughenessy, one of the teachers, was explaining to her class the method of making charcoal, illustrating it by means of an alcohol lamp and blocks of wood, which she charred in the flame. A boy from one of the other rooms was passing the door. He saw the flame of the lamp and smilled the burning wood and, remembering the recent fatal fire in a parochial lamp and smelled the burning wood and, remembering the recent fatal fire in a parochial school here, raised the cry of fire.

The runds ran out into the hallways and made descente efforts to reach the exits. Some jumped out of windows, others were thrown to the floor, and the children struggled and fought to get out. It was impossible for the half-dozen teachers to control the pupils. The injured were taken to their homes. The boy who raised the cry of fire has not been discovered.

BAD BOYS AT A FREE LECTURE.

Took Blowguns and in the Dark Pelted the Girls and the Lecturer-Arrested. Four Hungarian boys attended the free lecare in Public School 61, Morrisania, last night. Cyrus C. Adams was the lecturer and he talked about "New Things We Have Learned and when the lights were lowered the four young Huns began to blow beans and spitballs at the girls and then at the lecturer, whose white shirt front made a visible target.

Charles Voght, who supervises the free lectures for the School Board, ordered the lights on and located the disturbers. He said nothing to them directly but gave a general warning. The lights went out for a second time but soon the girls began to cry and the lecturer complained that he was getting soaked again.

Mr. Voght got three policemen to arrest the boys. At the nolice station they said they were Anton Black of 3403 Third avenue, Henry Strabanek of 3618 Park avenue, Frank Pilz of 3405 Third avenue and Louis Bechtholdt of 1714 Webster avenue. They were charged with disorderly conduct.

with disorderly conduct.

CLUNG TO A PROTRUDING MAST. Four Men Rescued From a Perilous Post

tion on Five-Fathom Bank. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20,-The tugboat I Luckenbach steamed into the Delaware Break water this morning with four sailors, the crew of the barge Gen. McClellan, on board, almost frozen to death. The barge was caught in the gale of last Saturday night and sank in twelve fathoms of water about eight miles southwest of Five-Fathom Bank. The barge was trying to make the Breakwater. She was not able to withstand the gale long, and went to the bottom with about ten feet of her foremast sticking out of water. Upon this the men climbed, and, with the water dashing over them, climbed, and the Luckenbach came along and took them off.

The barge City of Atlanta is missing, and it is terred that she drifted out to see and sank Saturday. The Luckenbach found her on Saturday afternoon in a heipless condition near Five-Fathom Bank, and after some difficulty succeeded in an choring her. She then went to hunt for other unfortunates, and when she returned the Atlanta had disappeared. Nothing has been heard or seen of her. withstand the gale long, and went to the bottom

MISS ROCH'S LONG TRANCE ENDS.

Montreal's "Steeping Girl" Had Been Un-MONTREAL, Quebec, Feb. 20.-Miss Eva Roch Montreal's sleeping girl, whose case has puzzled the Canadian doctors, has awakened from the trance into which she fell on Christmaseve. Over a year ago the young woman fell into a trance which continued for thirtyeight days. She was finally restored to consciousness by the application of red hot irons. sciousness by the application of red hot irons. She continued in comparatively good health until Christmas eve when she again became unconscious. She recovered consciousness once but relapsed after a few hours. Her case was then given up as hopeless, but two days ago she surprised her relatives by showing signs of animation. She has not fully recovered consciousness, and is partaking of liquid nourishmen. The doctors now say that with care Miss Roch will recover.

Miss Roch says that during the last days of her trance she was aware of what was going on about her but had no power to express her wishes. The case is regarded as one of the most remarkable on record.

SUDGES OBJECT TO TIKING SCRIP Round-Robin Movement to Get Cash Out of Cook Coun y's Trasu y

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.-The Judges of the Cook ounty Appellate Court threaten to strike if their salaries for December and January are of soon paid them in cash, instead of scrip, which the County Board offers as a compromise between nothing at all and money. ludges to-day addressed a round robin to the board in which they made their semands in forcible language. The stand taken by the Judges greatly encourages other employees of both county and city who have had to take serip and discount it with loan sharks. They will now attempt to force the authorities to borrow the money necessary to meet pay to borrow the money necessary to meet pay oils. This will mean that the discount will all upon the tax-paying public in the form of nerest on the loan rather than upon the indi-cidual in the form of outrageous hold-ups by the loan sharks, who, it is alleged, divide

with certain county and city officials. Superb Dining Car Service. Experienced travellers say the meals in the Dining are of the New York Central are the best they have per found East or West. Pintsch Light in all cars.

Lackawanna Railroad has just assumed charge of its dining car service. Improvements everywhere adv.

RUNNING MATE FOR BRYAN,

JUDGE CALDWELL OF ARKANSAS

CHOSEN RY POPULIST COMMITTEE. Senator Allen Says He Will Be Acceptable to the Democrats-Judge Caldwell Is a

Silver Republican-Populist Convention

to Be Held in Stoux Falls, S. D., on May 9. LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 20.-According to Senaor Allen the running mate for Mr. Bryan on the union ticket of the Democrats, Populists and Free Silver Republicans has already been elected in the person of Henry C. Caldwell of Little Rock, Ark., Judge of the Circuit Court for the Eighth district. Judge Caldwell is & Silver Republican and his nomination will be acceptable to the Populists. The National

decided to do all in its power to make him the nominee of the Sioux Falls convention. The greater part of the morning session was spent in discussing whether to hold the convention at the same time and place as that of the Democrats or Silver Republicans. The Southern Populists urged that it be held thirty days before the Democratic convention on the ground that the Populist agreement made in

Committee, which adjourned this afternoon.

Omaha should be fulfilled. The opposition insisted that to nominate Mr. Bryan would give his enemies in his own party

and file.

That date was then selected with only a few.

That date was then selected with only a few. dissenting votes, and Sioux Falis, S. D., secured the convention by a vote of 62 to 44 for Kansas City. Indianapolis and Milwaukee were com-

petitors.

Charman Butler says the bolt of the Middleof-the-roaders will amount to nothing, and
that it would certainly have come at the convention if not at the committee meeting. The
Middle-of-the-road and Southern Bryan Populists issue liong manifestos to-night, the former charging the latter with scheming to land
the party in the arms of the Democratic organization, and the latter retorting that the others
are raid agents of Mark Hanna. JUDGE CALDWELL IN THE LEAD.

He May Run With Bryan-Fight for the Democratic Convention. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20,-In the Washington hotel lobbies to-night the opinion seems to be general that the fight for the Democratic National Convention has narrowed down to Kansas City and Milwaukee. They are the only cities with established headquarters, pledges for entertainment, alleged polls of the National Committee, and the other adjuncts of an active campaign for such a convention. The only other city mentioned is Cincinnati, which is being urged by Democrats from the Middle West as a possible com-

promise. It seems to be generally accepted that the convention will be called for the first or second week in June, although this date is subject to change according to the action of the Populist

National Committee now in session at Lincoln. The name most frequently heard to-night in onnection with the Vice-Presidential recomination is that of Judge H. C. Caldwell of Arkansas. Mr. Sulzer seems to be most seriously considered as a possibility by his colleagues of the House. Others mentioned are Henry Treat Paine and George Fr of Williams

leagues of the House. Others mentioned are Henry Treat Paine and George Fred Williams of Massachusetts. Judge Caldwell has come into prominence through various anti-capitalist decisions rendered by him as presiding index of the Minth inited States Circuit. His district extends from the Canadian border to the northern line of Texas and includes all the States on the west bank of the Mississippi. He was appointed as a Republican, but an attitude of consistent opposition to railroads and other corporate interests is said to have converted him into a Democrat. His supporters believe that he would be particularly strong in such States as Illim 1 and Indiana.

Kansas City masses the greatest show of confidence, apparently. Her representatives are prepared to offer the committeemen next Thursday a fund of \$75,000 to be used as the National Committee deems wise. Milwaukee's fund, on the contrary, is to be used only for entertaining delegates and any unused portion of the \$100,000 offered is to be returned to the subscribers. The Missouri men count largely also on the influence of Vice-Chairman William J. Stone, who is pledged to support mansas City's application. According to Mr. Stone's associates in the cause the Missouri city is also enabled to offer vasity superior hotel accommodations. To all of this the Milwaukee men have ready answers. The Brewers National Association is likely to prove as strong an ally, they say, as any single member of the committee. There is said to be imminent among German voters a revolt against 'Imperialism,' and a convention in the heart of the district amposedly affected, would help the Democratic cause greatly, it is argued.

cratic cause greatly, it is argued. GEORGE M. PULLMAN'S TROUBLES,

Matter of Alimony Said to Be Under Discussion Preliminary to Divorce. CHICAGO, Feb. 20.-Whether Mrs. George M. Pullman should have \$400,000 or agree to take an annuity of less than \$3,000 is keeping Mr. Pullman and his wife from asking the courts to sever their marriage ties. It is promeised soon, however, that some agreement will be reached, and it is said that George M. Pull-

man will lead from the altar as his wife, Mrs.

man will lead from the altar as his wife. Mrs. Blanche Bowers, who was Miss Barrett, and that Mrs. Pullman will again resume her maiden name. Lynn Fernald. For nearly a year Mr and Mrs. Pullman have lived apart. It was announced by a triend of the Pullman family that a divorce would be sought by mutual agreement within a short time. "There is a matter of \$400,000 that is calling the hait," he said. "The main advisor of the Pullman family is not willing that so much money should be turned over to Mrs. Pullman, A matter of \$2,500 a year he believes in plenty." plenty.

CUBA GETS A TASTE OF WINTER.

The Thermometer Registers 53 and the People Shiver. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN HAVANA, Feb. 20.-Cuba had a real blast of winter last night. The mercury dropped to 53 degrees, and the people shivered and stayed indoors, with the windows of their houses

closed and the gas burning in vain efforts to Many colds resulted from the unusual fair in the temperature. It is much warmer to-day.

Wounded His Wife and Killed Himself. ALLENTOWN, PA., Feb. 20.-William Ulmer. 4 tailor of this city, this evening shot and serjously wounded his wife, Mary Y. Ulmer, then iously wounded his wife, Mary Y. Umer, then put three bullets in his own brain with fatai results. Ulmer had no work the greater part of the time and the support of the family fell upon his wife and one of the children. When he left the house this morning his wife asked him for money, but he gave her no reply. This evening she once more asked for money and he fired two bullets at her head. One tore through her cheek, but the other missed its mark.

OBERLIN, Ohio, Feb. 20.-President Barrows this morning announced a gift of \$40,000 for Oberlin College from the estate of William F. Osborne of Pittsburg. It is expected the money will be available for college uses within six months.